1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6

138
*175
161
632

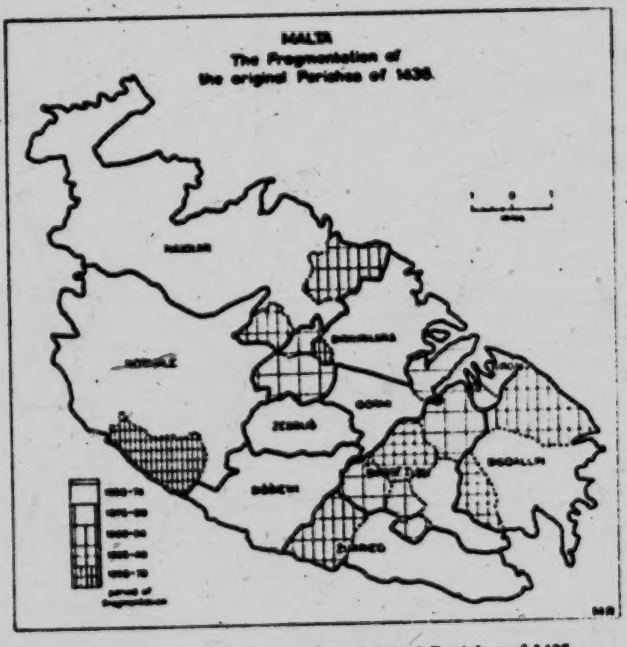

Fig. 38 The Fragmentation of the Original Parishes of 1436.

As early as 1836, a member of a Royal Commission was able to say that 'the real grievance of the Maltese lies beyond the reach of Commissioners and Governments, namely the excessive population'. At this date, as we have already seen, a steady increase of population had been maintained for some 300 years. During the nineteenth century, advances in medicine and sanitation together with increasing economic prosperity were reflected in a falling death rate and an accelerating natural increase. Thus between 1842 and 1956, numbers nearly trebled, rising from 114,000 to 316,000 and the overall density increased from 935 to 2,511 per square mile. While the rate of growth has in most European countries declined during the present century, that of Malta has remained at or above the levels of the nineteenth century. Only in the last few years has the Maltese crude birth rate begun to decline and only in the post-war period has emigration been on a large enough scale to act as a check on numerical growth. As will appear, neither of these simple facts gives any ground for optimism.

Fig. 37 shows the absolute growth of population in the Islands. In Malta, the rate of increase has been cumulatively high although during three past periods, first between 1861 and 1881, and later during the two World Wars, it declined to relatively low levels. Since 1948 the rate of growth has been consistently low and occasionally changed into absolute decrease. In Gozo, total increase has been smaller and fluctuations both larger and differently timed. Between 1861 and 1871 population increased remarkably rapidly, while between 1911 and 1921 there was an absolute decrease. Since 1948 trends have conformed with those of Malta.

Such absolute figures need consideration from several aspects. The economic background has already been considered. Details of distribution and structure of the population must now be examined.

2: Boissevain E-5 (1960-1961) 1965
EZ6 Malta EZ6

move for religious feasts and family celebrations. Sometimes a number of these farms are clustered around a chapel or small church dependent upon the parish church. In time, these hamlets may disappear; historical sources cite many which have long since vanished.[1] On the other hand, a hamlet may grow to the point where its inhabitants can afford to build a larger church and in other ways successfully press their claim to become a separate parish. Most rural parishes in Malta and Gozo have come into being in this way. Some towns have been divided into two or more parishes for administrative reasons. In Malta, Qormi and Valletta are each divided into two parishes, and Sliema into three. Rabat in Gozo is currently being divided into two parishes. But because of fierce rivalry between the residents of the territories concerned, the exact boundary line is disputed and the territorial division will probably take another generation to complete.

The parish priest, who in all but the smallest parishes is assisted by a curate or more, is responsible to the Church for the care of the souls of all Catholics resident in his parish. Except where foreign service personnel live with their families – notably in Rabat, Naxxar, Mosta, St. Paul's Bay, Luqa and Birżebbuġa – all villagers are Catholic, and are thus the priest's parishioners. These parishioners also form part of the corporate body of the Church.

The clergy in Malta, as in all other Catholic countries, are divided into two main groups: the secular or diocesan clergy, and the regular clergy. Diocesan priests are trained in the Bishop's Seminary and are directly subject to the authority of the Bishop. A further distinction is made between those diocesan priests whose families or patrons have been able to provide them with a benefice – either property or cash deposited at the Curia bank – yielding a minimum of £10 annually, and those who have received their benefices from their Bishop. After the first five years the former, who are by far the most numerous, are free to serve where they wish. The latter always remain at the service of their Bishop. Most parishes are run by diocesan priests, and the clergy resident in the villages belong to this group. The friars and monks of the regular clergy are members of religious orders. They have been trained in the seminaries and houses of their particular orders.

[1] An interesting study of villages which have disappeared is given in M. Richardson, *Aspects of the Demography of Modern Malta* (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Durham, 1960), pp. 243 ff.

APPENDIX 2 : THE BUILT-UP AREA

103
161
162
632
131

"A Township is the definite urban-type built-up nucleus of a census locality" (v. B/188, p.38). On this basis the 'township' area and population within each census locality may be distinguished:

CENSUS LOCALITIES	LOCALITIES: LAND AREA, sq. miles A	LOCALITIES: POPULATION. B	"TOWNSHIPS": LAND AREA, as % of A.	"TOWNSHIPS": POPULATION, as % of B.
Valletta	0.281	18,202	100	100
Cospicua	0.241	9,095	100	100
Senglea	0.057	5,065	100	100
Vittoriosa	0.205	4,242	100	100
Gżira	0.411	8,545	38.9	99.3
Sliema	0.485	23,399	100	100
Floriana	0.341	5,811	100	100
Fgura	1.060	11,424	24.8	100
Marsa	0.883	10,672	38.8	100
Hamrun	0.380	16,895	73.1	100
Msida	0.368	6,587	53.3	98.9
Kalkara	0.471	2,101	28.9	92.9
Pieta	0.200	4,076	78.5	100
St. Juliana	1,635	8,285	17.9	70.8
Balzan	0.236	2,734	68.6	100
Luqa	1,812	5,382	5.6	91.2
Birkirkara	2.736	18,987	15.2	90.5
Tarxien	0.850	7,708	12.5	56.2
St. Venera	0.415	5,248	34.9	75.1
Qormi	2.412	14,889	9.9	95.6
Birżebbuġa	2,994	5,297	4.7	88.1
Żabbar & M'skala	3.236	11,893	9.5	61.3
Żejtun	3.777	11,685	5.9	87.2
Lija	0.547	2,119	24.1	98.3
Mqabba	1.242	2,088	5	97.5
Kirkop	1.852	1,489	1.9	92.9
Żurrieq	3.536	6,837	4.3	92.8
Ghaxaq	1.121	2,830	6.8	98.5
Attard	2.090	2,663	7.2	97.2
Victoria	1.835	6,357	19.6	97
Mdina	2.473	823	1.1	100
Mosta	1.900	7,377	14	97.9
Żebbuġ	3.187	7,989	10.2	99.7
Ghajnsielem	1.414	1,830	6.9	98
Gudja	1.709	1,712	2.6	97.4
Qrendi	2.587	2,155	2.2	97.7
Kirkop	0.717	1,204	6.3	100
Naxxar	6.538	4,688	2.7	83
Rabat	8.048	12,792	2.9	82
Xewkija	1.288	3,281	12.9	99.9
Gharghur	2.023	1,813	2	87.3
Mellieha	7.808	4,290	0.9	71.9
Siġġiewi	6.230	5,055	2.4	96.4
Sannat & Nunnar	2.187	1,658	4.9	99.6
Nadur	2.487	4,136	7.8	96.7
Safi	0.447	709	10.1	97.7
Dingli	3.874	2,041	1.7	68.5
Qala	2.218	1,618	3.8	95.8
St. Paul's Bay	5.820	3,040	2.1	72.5
Kerċem & St.Lucia	2.442	1,272	4	100
Xagħra	4.654	4,068	5.8	87.9
Gharb	2.043	1,389	2.2	67.3
San Lawrenz	1.355	428	3.4	89.2
Żebbuġ	2.775	1,199	4.4	85.1
Mġarr	5.838	2,187	0.8	31.2
Ghasri	1.423	471	3	41.2
Comino	1.075	30	0	0
Maltese Islands	121.850	319,820	7.6	91.1
Malta	98.878	292,019	8	90.9
Gozo	28.974	27,801	5.9	85.8

NB: - Information from B/188. Table P/IIIb).